



February 24, 1994

**GARY HARRIS
PRESIDENT - MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

STATEMENT FROM GARY HARRIS

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO, FIRST OF ALL, SAY THANK YOU TO ALL OF MY FRIENDS, FAMILY, STAFF AND SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO BE HERE WITH ME TODAY.

AS YOU VERY WELL KNOW BY NOW, THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HAS SERVED ME THROUGH MY ATTORNEY, MR. THOMAS ASHLEY, WITH AN INDICTMENT.

THE CHARGES ARE NOT TRUE, THEY HAVE NO BASIS IN FACT AND WE FEEL IT IS A CONCERTED EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO DISCREDIT ME AND ASSASSINATE MY CHARACTER, MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MY FAMILY'S GOOD NAME.

THIS INDICTMENT IS AN EFFORT BY THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO FRAME ME. THE CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST ME WERE CREATED AS A RESULT OF AN ALLEGED FBI STING OPERATION. DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF THE FBI THROUGH ITS STING OPERATION AND UNDERCOVER OPERATIVES TO CREATE A CRIME, NO CRIMINAL ACT WAS EVER COMMITTED BY ME.

ONCE AGAIN, I REPEAT, THIS INDICTMENT IS GROUNDLESS AND HAS NO BASIS IN FACT. I WANT THE GOOD CITIZENS OF NEWARK AND THE REST OF THE WORLD TO KNOW THAT I HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING WRONG. I HAVE FOUGHT VIGOROUSLY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE CITIZENS OF NEWARK AND WITH YOUR HELP, I WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

FURTHERMORE, I WANT ASSURE ALL MY SUPPORTERS THAT I INTEND TO CONTINUE MY CAMPAIGN TO SEEK RE-ELECTION AS COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE, IN THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 10TH.

MY OFFICE HAS COOPERATED FULLY WITH THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S INVESTIGATION AND WE REMAIN OPEN TO ALL PUBLIC SCRUTINY. I WANT TO STRESS TO YOU ALL THAT GARY HARRIS HAS NOTHING TO HIDE AND I REMAIN YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT AND WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT THE AFFAIRS OF MY OFFICE WITHOUT RELUCTANCE OR TREPIDATION.

AGAIN, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE, AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO SERVE THE RESIDENTS AND THE CITY OF NEWARK.